

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10  
NSAE-00 ICA-20 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04  
SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-06 OIC-02 L-03  
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R 271936Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0765

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PASS HEW/OE FOR LEESTMA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SEDU, OECD  
SUBJECT: APRIL 20-21 MEETING OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S  
NO. 10 ON EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

REF: STATE 97134

SUMMARY - A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED SERIOUS  
RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE NEED TO COLLECT AND PUBLISH  
AT REGULAR INTERVALS COMPLETE SETS OF EDUCATIONAL  
STATISTICS. THESE DELS SAID THE REPORT SHOULD BE  
DRASTICALLY REDUCED IN SCOPE (THE WP CURRENTLY WORKS  
ON OVER 100 STATISTICAL SERIES) TO FOCUS ON THOSE  
ITEMS WHICH WOULD BE OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO POLICY  
MAKERS (E.G. PUPIL/TEACHER RATIOS, PARTICIPATION

RATES BY AGE, SEX, ETC.). IN THIS REGARD MOST DELEGATES  
REQUESTED GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN OECD AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (UNESCO, EC) TO AVOID DU-  
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PLICATION OF EFFORTS. IN OTHER ACTIONS WP AGREED TO  
PROVIDE SECRETARIAT WITH UPDATED INFORMATION AND  
DISCUSSED USEFULNESS/RELEVANCE OF THIS WORKING PARTY  
AND WHAT ITS RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE. DELEGA-  
TIONS WERE UNABLE TO GIVE SECRETARIAT STRONG GUIDANCE  
ON THIS POINT AND DEFERRED DECISION TO EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE ON THE BASIS OF THE 1979 WORK PROGRAM. WP

HAD INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS FULL TIME SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS, 1979-80, AND PRESENT/FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TEACHER SUPPLY/DEMAND IN MEMBER COUNTRIES. LASTLY, WP INSTRUCTED SECRETARIAT TO REVISE EXTENSIVELY THE GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE ON EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS PRIOR TO ITS SUBMISSION TO MEMBER COUNTRIES: ACTION REQUESTED: THAT U.S. PROVIDE UPDATED EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS BY JUNE 15. WP NEXT MEETS DECEMBER 7-8. US DEL WAS HEADED BY MARY GOLLADAY, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS, HEW. END SUMMARY.

1. THE POTENTIAL USEFULNESS OF PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT "EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS IN OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES" WAS REVIEWED. DELEGATES FROM AUSTRALIA AND IRELAND CITED THE NEED FOR STATISTICS TO BE REASONABLE TIMELY IF THE DOCUMENT IS TO BE OF USE (DATA NOW GO TO 1975). THE BRITISH DEL WOULD LIKE THE REPORT DRASTICALLY REDUCED IN SCOPE, TO ONLY 4 ITEMS, INCLUDING PUPIL-TEACHER RATIOS, EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION RATES (ESPECIALLY AT NON-COMPULSORY LEVELS), EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENT OF GNP, AND AGE OF ENTRANCE INTO SCHOOLING. THE SECRETARIAT FELT INFORMATION FOR 1976 COULD EASILY BE ADDED AND SO REQUESTED. MOST DELS FELT THAT MAJOR REVISIONS IN REPORT'S DESIGN WOULD DELAY ITS PUBLICATION UNDULY, AND THAT DISCUSSION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FULL-SCALE PUBLICATION SHOULD BE POSTPONED. DELEGATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE ANY UPDATES BY JUNE 15, 1978 SO THAT REPORT CAN BE PUBLISHED IN TIME FOR EDUCATION MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OCTOBER. AS PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, USDEL ASKED THAT SECRETARIAT TRANSMIT REQUESTS TO USOECD FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON FOR LEESTMA.

2. SECRETARIAT RAISED ISSUES OF WP'S UTILITY AND ITS CONTINUATION, AND INDICATED THAT ALL OECD WPS WERE BEING REVIEWED. IN PARTICULAR, SECRETARIAT ASKED WHETHER THE WORK NECESSARY TO PRODUCE COMPARABLE STATISTICS MIGHT NOT NOW BE COMPLETED AND NO NEW WORK BE INITIATED. THE EXTENSIVE, ON-GOING BENEFITS OF THE WP WERE CITED BY UK DEL, WHILE PROBLEMS OF CLASSIFICATION AND NEED FOR COORDINATION AMONG INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WERE CITED BY DELS FROM SWEDEN AND THE NETHERLANDS. THE BRITISH DEL SUGGESTED THAT THE WP CONFINE ITSELF TO STATISTICAL SERIES OF SUCH TOPICS AS ENROLLMENTS, FINANCE, WHILE THE IRISH DEL NOTED THE NEED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SPECIAL TOPICS AS THEY EMERGE IN IMPORTANCE.

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3. A LIST OF PROPOSED SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE STUDY BY THE WP WAS DISCUSSED IN RELATION TO NEED CITED BY FRG DELEGATION FOR CLOSER COORDINATION WITH THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. TOPICS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT (NOT ALL OF WHICH WERE DISCUSSED BY THE WP) INCLUDED (1) TEACHERS; (2) VARIABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; (3) OUT-OF-SCHOOL EDUCATION; (4) VOCATIONAL EDUCATION; (5) PROJECTIONS; (6) LONGITUDINAL STUDIES; (7) DATA COMPARABILITY. SWEDEN UNDERSCORED THE NEED TO REVIEW LONGITUDINAL STUDIES. THE NEED FOR CLOSER COORDINATION WITH UNESCO WAS CITED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND UNESCO WITH A PAPER OUTLINING POTENTIAL AREAS OF COOPERATION BEING PROMISED BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE WP'S NEXT MEETING.

4. WP DISCUSSED DRAFT REPORT "FULL-TIME SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 1960-1980". THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDES PROJECTIONS OF POPULATION AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATES AT ALL LEVELS FOR MALES AND FEMALES AS REPORTED AND ESTIMATED BY THE SECRETARIAT. DEFINITIONAL PROBLEMS  
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WERE CITED BY DELEGATES FROM SWEDEN AND THE UK; THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON METHODS WAS RAISED BY THE DEL FROM SPAIN, AND UNESCO CITED ITS OWN PUBLISHED PROJECTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD. DUE TO UNCERTAINTIES AS TO METHODOLOGIES USED (THEY HAD NOT BEEN REQUESTED OF MEMBER COUNTRIES), THE STATISTICS WERE GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE NON-COMPARABLE AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR CIRCULATION. HENCE NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO PUBLISH DOCUMENT IN ITS PRESENT FORM, THOUGH THE WP EXPRESSED CONTINUING GENERAL INTEREST IN THE AREA OF PROJECTIONS OF EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.

5. SECRETARIAT PRESENTED RESULTS OF A PRELIMINARY STUDY ASSESSING TEACHER SUPPLY AND DEMAND, PRESENT SITUATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TEACHER SUPPLY/ DEMAND IN MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED FOR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. THE WP REVIEWED THE TECHNICAL PRESENTATION OF DATA FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES AND RELATED QUESTIONS OF DATA AVAILABILITY. DATA IDENTIFYING TEACHER DEMAND ARE AVAILABLE FOR MANY COUNTRIES, BUT SUPPLY INFO IS LESS WELL-KNOWN. ADDITIONAL SURVEYS BEING INITIATED IN THE U.S. TO ILLUMINATE BOTH DEMAND AND SUPPLY CONDITIONS WERE CITED IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR NEW INFORMATION. SURVEY PROGRAMS WERE ALSO OUTLINED BY DELEGATES FROM SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA, AND GERMANY. POLICY CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM AVAILABLE DATA BY THE SECRETARIAT CITED NUMEROUS ALTERNATIVES TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS FOR QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN THE SHORT TERM, AND SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS TO TEACHER TRAINING OR RETRAINING FOR FIELDS WHERE SHORTAGES STILL EXIST. NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY WERE MADE BY THE WP; WP WILL AWAIT WORD FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE AS TO NEED

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.  
ACTION REQUESTED: DELEGATE TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN MAY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THIS PAPERED/WP2(77)2 1ST REV.

6. SECRETARIAT PRESENTED A DRAFT GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE ON EDUCATIONAL SATATISTICS FOR COMMENT AND APPROVAL. IRELAND EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE DISMAY ON DOCUMENT'S LENGTH AND ORGANIZATION, ESPECIALLY THE REQUEST FOR COPIES OF ALL QUESTIONNAIRES RELATING TO EDUCATION STATISTICS. U.S., SWEDEN, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS AND SPAIN CONCURRED WITH IRISH. FOLLOWING

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES, THE SECRETARIAT AGREED TO  
COMPLETELY REDESIGN QUESTIONNAIRE.  
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## Message Attributes

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